

November 30, 2005

Mr. Robert Johnson [rjohnson@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:rjohnson@lc.usbr.gov)  
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The states of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming have received a copy of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) letter to you dated November 28, 2005. The letter suggests several comments concerning the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed *Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions* (70 Fed. Reg. 189 (September 30, 2005)) (hereinafter Shortage Guidelines).

We think it important that you understand our thoughts and position on ADWR's suggestions. By letter dated August 25, 2005, all seven basin states outlined our plan "to collaborate on the development of conjunctive operations of Lakes Powell and Mead to minimize shortages to the Lower Basin states and avoid curtailment of Upper Basin states."

We view the ADWR suggestions to be entirely inconsistent with the actions and commitments described in the August 25 letter. In that letter, all seven states envisioned a process by which agreements could be reached concerning river operations to achieve defined and agreed-upon goals. The ADWR correspondence appears to us to retreat from both that process and those goals despite its intent to "continue to collaborate" whatever that means. Should the Bureau of Reclamation wish to include a "full range" of alternatives, we in the Upper Division have some very specific alternatives that should be given consideration. If necessary, we expect the Bureau to consult with the Basin States in the development of such alternatives. They also, however, might be viewed as a retreat from our commitment of August 25.

Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico are committed to pursue the process and goals described in our August 25, 2005 letter. We trust that your scoping process will facilitate, not undermine those efforts.

Very truly yours,

Scott Balcomb  
Governor's Representative, Colorado

Patrick Tyrrell  
State Engineer, Wyoming

D. Larry Anderson  
Director, Utah Div. Water Resources

John D'Antonio  
Governor's Representative, New Mexico

cc: Lower Basin State Representatives  
Upper Basin Commissioners